



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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MAR 12 2004

In re Application of: )  
)  
Thatcher et al. ) Examiner: Desta, E.  
)  
Serial No.: 10/028,039 ) Art Unit: 2857  
)  
Filed: December 20, 2001 )  
)  
For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR )  
DISCOVERY OF OPERATIONAL )  
BOUNDARIES FOR SHMOO )  
TESTS )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

R.C.E. AND RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Dear Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action mailed July 10, 2003, Applicants respectfully submit in a Request for Continued Examination (R.C.E.) the following amendments and responses to the above captioned patent application, as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 12 of this paper.

**BEST AVAILABLE COPY**

10019976-1  
Examiner: Desta, E.

1 Serial No.: 10/028,039  
Group Art Unit: 2857